

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10786

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, SOPN, UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIET LECTURER DISCUSSES SHEVCHENKO CASE

1. DURING QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD FOLLOWING MAY 14
ZNANIYE SOCIETY LECTURE BY YU. F. POLYAKOV, QUESTIONS
WERE ASKED CONCERNING "SOVIET REPRESENTATION" AT UN.
POLYAKOV, OBVIOUSLY PRIMED, ANSWERED ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

-- CASE IS A "SIMPLE STORY" OF A PERSON OF QUESTIONABLE
CHARACTER BECOMING VICTIM OF EFFORTS OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE
ORGANIZATIONS. SHEVCHENKO HAD SOME ORDINARY HUMAN
WEAKNESSES, E.G., TOWARD ALCOHOL AND WOMEN. U.S.
INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATIONS USED BLACKMAIL TO ENCOURAGE
HIM TO DEFECT.

-- THE TRAGEDY IS COMPOUNDED BY HIS WIFE'S SUICIDE
(QUESTION FROM AUDIENCE: WHAT ABOUT THE SON? ANSWER:
HE'S HERE AND IS ALRIGHT).

-- UNFORTUNATELY, THE COMRADES WHO WORKED WITH SHEVCHENKO
DID NOT SEE WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN TIME TO PREVENT IT.
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THUS, SHEVCHENKO'S "COLLECTIVE" IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS
INCIDENT.

2. COMMENT: PUBLIC INTEREST IN CASE IS DEMONSTRATED BY
SUBMISSION OF MORE THAN ONE QUESTION ON SUBJECT (ZNANIYE
SOCIETY QUESTIONS ARE PASSED ANONOMOUSLY FROM AUDIENCE IN
WRITING) AND BY SPONTANEOUS QUESTION ON FATE OF SON.

3. LECTURER'S EMPHASIS ON ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF
SHEVCHENKO'S "COLLECTIVE" IS INTERESTING AND DOES NOT
BODE WELL FOR THOSE COMRADES CONCERNED. TOON

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